

To: Sara Pauley[Sara.Pauley@dnr.mo.gov]
From: Hague, Mark
Sent: Fri 10/23/2015 9:45:08 PM
Subject: Fwd: Letter to Editor for Post-Dispatch

As requested.

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Carey, Curtis" <Carey.Curtis@epa.gov>
Date: October 23, 2015 at 4:29:24 PM CDT
To: "Hague, Mark" <Hague.Mark@epa.gov>
Subject: Letter to Editor for Post-Dispatch

Federal Health Agency's report confirms no offsite public health concerns near West Lake landfill

I want to assure you that we at EPA are committed to protecting public health from the radiological contamination buried at the West Lake Landfill. Numerous studies by federal and state partners demonstrate that there is no current offsite health risk.

Recently, the federal Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry completed a health consultation for EPA that confirmed there is no current offsite health risk. They also confirmed that groundwater from the site will not harm people's health. The groundwater flows away from residential areas and is not being used as a public water supply. Finally, there is no evidence of contamination along roads leading to the landfill.

Beginning in the summer of 2014 through June of 2015, EPA conducted a year-long air monitoring effort around the West Lake Landfill for volatile organic compounds (VOCs) and alpha, beta, and gamma radiation. The results demonstrate that the air quality around West Lake Landfill is consistent with the air quality of the greater St. Louis metropolitan area.

EPA will continue to support the state of Missouri in its efforts to make certain that Republic Services manages the smoldering event at the Bridgeton Landfill so it cannot impact the radiological material at the adjacent West Lake Landfill. In the near future, in cooperation with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, EPA will announce plans to prevent the subsurface smoldering event occurring in Bridgeton Landfill from coming into contact with the radiologically impacted material at the West Lake Landfill.

Next year, all the necessary investigative work will be completed and we will announce our proposal for a final remedy. That proposal will be available for public review and comment. The final remedy will be designed to ensure that human health and the environment remain protected from radiological contaminants. I know the community wants a solution that addresses the contamination as quickly as possible at the West Lake Landfill. I am committed to delivering a scientifically sound solution.

I encourage readers to visit http://www3.epa.gov/region07/cleanup/west_lake_landfill/ for more information.

Mark Hague

Acting Regional Administrator

EPA Region 7